



Rep. Dawn Mason

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37th District

97 Interim Questionnaire

Committees: Higher Education, *Ranking Minority Member* • Trade & Economic Development • Finance

September 1997

Dear Friends:

I am actively seeking your input from the 37th District to shape my Legislative priorities for the upcoming session. The Legislature will convene in January and now is the time to let me know of your concerns. Please spend a few moments to fill out the attached questionnaire.

I anticipate several issues on the horizon. Education is foremost on my mind, particularly the challenge of working with a shrinking education budget (the state will spend \$70 less per pupil this upcoming year, when inflation is factored in).

The state's welfare plan has been officially enacted into law. Now comes the difficult task of enforcing its provisions. While welfare recipients must not abuse the system, the system itself should not abuse recipients.

While the Legislature passed landmark bipartisan juvenile justice legislation last session, I anticipate more discussion on this issue in January. We must do more to prevent young people from falling into criminal behavior. For every dollar we spend on prevention of juvenile delinquency, we will save more than seven dollars on rehabilitation. This not only is good for teens, but it is good for taxpayers.

I am also interested in economic revitalization of our district. Not long ago, I had the honor of traveling to the White House to meet with President Clinton and Hillary Clinton who had convened the Women's Economic Leadership Summit involving 80 American women. I spoke on Community and Economic Development and I was proud to note that Seattle's Central District is viewed as a national model for several important economic self-sufficiency initiatives.

I am pleased to announce that Andrea Caupain has joined my staff as Legislative Assistant. Andrea is a native of Guyana, South America, who moved to Washington state 10 years ago with her family. A graduate of Evergreen State College, she majored in political science and legal research and served in the State Senate as an intern.

I have created the Legislature's first "virtual office." I am testing this pilot project during this Legislative interim. New technologies now allow 24-hour access to me and my staff. We feel more efficient and the feedback from constituents has been positive.

Regards,

Dawn Mason

Rep. Dawn Mason

(360) 786-7944 _____ Olympia office

(206) 721-4143 _____ 24-hour voice mail

mason_da@leg.wa.gov _____ E-mail

www.leg.wa.gov _____ Website

Questions:

1 Should laws be changed so that school levies would pass with a simple majority, rather than a supermajority of 60%?

(Circle one)

Yes No

2 Do you support a gas tax to ease traffic congestion?

(Circle one)

Yes No

3 Do you support spending money on programs that emphasize parenting skills, including young children's health, early education and child nutrition?

(Circle one)

Yes No

4 Do you support state funding of all-day kindergarten?

(Circle one)

Yes No

5 Should state-funded basic education begin earlier than kindergarten?

(Circle one)

Yes No

6 Do you support keeping affirmative action laws in place?

(Circle one)

Yes No

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Rep. Dawn Mason
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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7 Do you support tax credits and incentives to attract new businesses to economically distressed, rural areas?

(Circle one)

Yes No

8 Should the state's Basic Health Plan be expanded to serve more of the 70,000 low income, working families currently on its waiting list?

(Circle one)

Yes No

Comments: _____

Optional: Please include your phone number or e-mail address _____

You may fold the questionnaire and return it to me.
Thank you. Your comments are important.

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